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FIVE DAYS FOR THE HOMELESS

Ten university students are spending five days sleeping outside this week, without access to money and relying on donated food, to raise awareness about the 800 homeless youth in Calgary. For the story, turn to page 8. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Public swearing outlawed in new Taber bylaw

Controversy. Town restricts adult gatherings, slaps youth with curfew

With a sweeping new bylaw, the southern Alberta town of Taber has outlawed swearing in public, instituted a nightly curfew on kids and teenagers, and granted local law enforcement the power to break up any assemblies of three or more people.

The new "Community Standards Bylaw" is clearly unconstitutional, said Lisa Lambert, a PhD candidate and instructor in political science at the University of Calgary, who lives in Coaldale, about 35 kilometres west of Taber.

"Little towns get bad names because of this kind of nonsense," Lambert said. "This is so embarrassing."

The way the bylaw is worded, even whispering a curse word in public could land you a $150 fine, Lambert noted, while events like bake sales and car washes could be caught up under the "panhandling" definition.

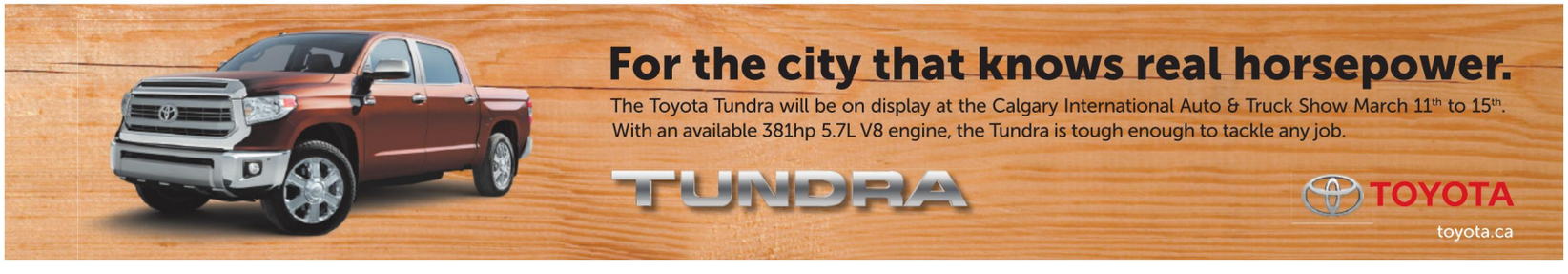
There's "just no way" it would stand up to a Charter challenge, she added.

Neither the Taber mayor, nor the police commission chairman, nor the lone town councillor to vote against the bylaw (which passed by a 6-1 margin) replied to interview requests Monday.

Mayor Henk De Vlieger offered tentative support for the bylaw, according to the local newspaper.

"I'm not saying this thing is perfect, but I think we should give it a chance and try it out, and let the police work with it," he was quoted as saying in the Taber Times. "After a period of time, we might make some adjustments, but let's see how it works."

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO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CBE seeking funds to build 20 schools over three years

Education. Capital plan asking for hundreds of millions of dollars for project, which also includes modernizing 13 other facilities

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

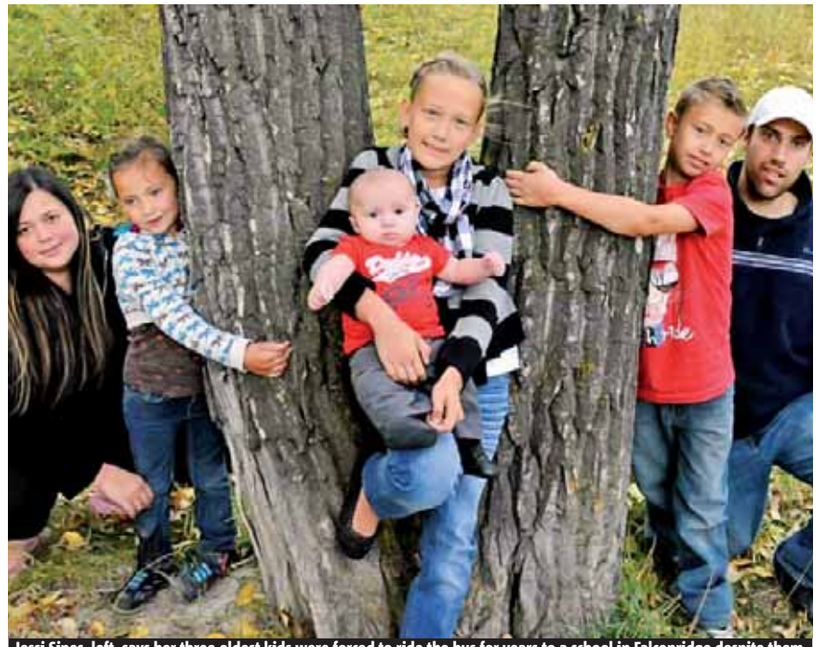
Even with two slates of city schools announced by successive premiers, Calgary's public education board says it will need two-thirds of a billion dollars over the next three years to build 20 additional facilities and modernize 13 more.

It's another enormous ask detailed in a 2016-19 capital plan from the Calgary Board of Education, which has seen record student growth in recent years.

Even with a looming economic downturn, the organization expects an additional 2,455 students to enrol in classes next fall, although that's down from previous estimates in excess of 4,000.

"There were no announcements (of new schools) for five years (prior to May 2013), so those that have been announced are catching up with past growth," CBE board of trustees chair Joy Bowen-Eyre said in an interview Monday. "The schools we're requesting for the future are schools we need for projected future growth."

The capital plan serves as a wish list of sorts and is submitted to the province annually. This year's aim, according to the document, is to bring the CBE's system-wide space utilization average down to 80 per cent. It's believed with current enrolment trends that the CBE's space crunch will top out at 89 per cent before any of the new schools pledged by former premier Alison Redford open in September 2016.



Jessi Sipes, left, says her three oldest kids were forced to ride the bus for years to a school in Falconridge despite them living just metres from packed Crossing Park School. CONTRIBUTED

The top six projects on the CBE's new capital plan — four new buildings (a southeast high school, a second elementary in Martindale, an elementary for Springbank Hill/Discovery Ridge and an elementary for Silverado) as well as two modernizations (at James Fowler High School and Lord Beaverbrook High School) — were already endorsed by the province under new premier Jim Prentice in October, but only funds for design and project scoping were approved at the time.

Parents like Jessi Sipes said the added classroom space can't come soon enough. Her family lives across the street from Crossing Park School, the lone elementary school in Martindale, but it took years to get her kids in due to overcapacity issues. It was only this past fall that all three were able to walk to school after years of being bussed to Falconridge.

"I was furious because I had to pay the bus fees, the lunchroom fees, which totalled about $1,000 a year, when there was a school that I could sit on my front deck and see," Sipes said.

In a Monday news conference, Infrastructure Minister Manmeet Bhullar insisted that even with a sharp drop in the price of oil, one that could leave the province with a $7-billion budget gap, his government remained committed to funding new schools.

The last phase of schools, announced by Premier Prentice in October, include 55 new schools and 20 modernizations. Bhullar said 60 of the schools would be ready in 2017.

"Alberta is growing very quickly. We have a large number of children entering our school systems and we want to make it better for our children," he said.

"That's why we're pressing ahead with these school projects."

WITH FILES FROM LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO IN EDMONTON

More immediate CBE new-school requests

- **SE Calgary High school (likely in Seton):** Grades 10-12, 1,600 students, $52 million; **Martindale:** K-4, 600, $16.2M; **Springbank Hill/Discovery Ridge:** K-9, 900, $26.5M; **Silverado:** K-4, 600, $16.2M; **Cranston:** K-4, 600, $16.2M; **Coventry Hills/Countril Hills Village:** K-4, 600, $16.2M; **Evergreen:** K-4, 600, $16.2M; **Cougar Ridge:** K-4, 600, $16.2M; **Kincora:** K-4, 600, $16.2M
- For a link to the full capital plan report, head to metronews.ca/calgary.

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Former PC nomination candidates allege they were pushed from race

Politics. Two ex-Tories were disqualified by the party in the days leading up to the last nomination vote

RYAN TUMILTY
Metro in Edmonton

Balraj Manhas, president of Edmonton's United Cabbies Association, claims he was pushed out of the PC nomination race in the riding of Edmonton-Ellerslie.
METRO FILE

Two former candidates for Progressive Conservative nominations are charging that they were pushed out of their respective races and still don't know why.

Don Martin, who was running against incumbent MLA Janice Sarich in Edmonton-Decore, said he was disqualified just a day before the vote.

He said PC party director Kelly Charlebois said he could voluntarily withdraw or be disqualified, based on an affidavit alleging misconduct.

"I regarded Mr. Charlebois' actions akin to a Star Chamber proceeding and morally equivalent to blackmail. I declined to withdraw," he said in a statement released on Facebook.

Charlebois said the party had a clear reason for the disqualification.

"I made it very clear to him what the issue was, and it was a gross violation of the party's rules. He admitted it, and that was that," he said.

Martin insisted he committed no violation and still has no idea who's making claims against him.

Balraj Manhas, president of the United Cabbies Association, said he's still waiting for answers weeks after allegedly being forced to leave the Edmonton-Ellerslie race.

Manhas challenged incumbent Naresh Bhardwaj but said he was called two days prior to the Feb. 21 ballot by nomination committee representatives who alleged problems with his candidacy.

"They asked me to pull out or they said they would put in the public that I was disqualified or something like that," he said. "I only had a few minutes to decide."

Manhas reluctantly pulled out. He said he sent an email for more information about why he was disqualified but hasn't received a response.

Charlebois said the party was still looking at the case.

"The whole matter is still considered under review by the party," he said.

WITH FILES FROM JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Candidates in dark over chief's plans

Tory nominee hopeful Manjit Jaswal has been knocking on doors in Calgary-Cross for about a month.

Lately, a different question is being posed by potential voters.

"People are asking us if Rick Hanson's running," he said. "We haven't heard anything from the party."

On Friday, Metro was first to report Progressive Conservative Party sources who said Hanson, the city's soon-to-be-retired police chief, will seek the nomination in Calgary-Cross, where current MLA Yvonne Fritz is due to retire.

Neither the party nor Hanson has publicly confirmed such a campaign; the chief actually took a back exit out of city hall chambers Monday to avoid a crowd of reporters waiting to pose questions about his future plans.

Jaswal said he fears Hanson will simply be appointed.

"If that's what the party decides, what can we do?" he said.

Originally, eight men signed on for the Cross nomination race, but an original vote date in late February was pushed back, with organizers claiming a larger venue was needed.

Kelly Charlebois, the PC association's executive director, said in an interview that "everything is a go" in Calgary-Cross and no candidates were being asked to withdraw from the race.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO, WITH FILES FROM RYAN TUMILTY

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Guns found in drug busts concern police

Calgary police have shut down a network of traffickers, rounding up a hefty haul in drugs, cash and what investigators say is most concerning: a stockpile of guns.

Five residences in Temple, Kingsland, MacEwan and the Beltline were targeted by police in the bust March 4. Drugs, cash, multiple types of ammunition and a weapon were found as well as a key to a storage locker, where more of the same was later found.

In all, more than 2,550 fentanyl pills, 600 grams of methamphetamine, 320 grams of cannabis resin, more than 300 grams of cocaine, 110 OxyContin units, more than 45 grams of heroin as well as marijuana cannabis and MDMA were seized.

"Fentanyl is part of the Calgary drug scene, it has been for some time now," said Sgt. Jason Walker of the Calgary Police Service Guns and Gangs Unit. "It's a significant haul of fentanyl."

Although the bust was sizeable, Walker said what's more concerning are the guns police recovered in homes as well as a storage locker.

"We've seen in Calgary many times before that drug traffickers and firearms is a recipe for extreme acts of violence," Walker said. "We're getting to a point now where we're seeing firearms more and more often … it's becoming so commonplace, in fact, that when we execute warrants like these if we don't find the gun we presume we haven't looked hard enough."

Police also recovered three semi-automatic rifles, two handguns and one pump-action shotgun.

Hafiz Allan Mohammed, 28, Tyler Steven Price, 30, Sean William Kiss, 33, Sandra Johanna Woloshyn, 33, Steven John Hurd, 30, and Christie-Lee Harris, 29, all face a host of charges.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

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CPS Staff Sgt. Kristie Verheul says police are cautioning the public about securing their keys after the number of cars stolen "using a key" continues to make up a growing percentage of overall auto thefts. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Keep your keys secure, police urge

Auto theft. Although the total number of stolen vehicles are in decline, thefts due to misplaced keys make up the majority of cases

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

The key to preventing auto theft may be in your pocket.

Car thefts in the city of Calgary are declining, but Calgary police say the number of vehicles stolen as a result of carelessly placed keys continue to make up a growing percentage of overall thefts.

CPS data shows that up until March 2 that 137 cars have been stolen "using a key" — making up 22 per cent of total thefts, a number on pace to match instances recorded in the first seven months of both 2013 and 2014.

Staff Sgt. Kristie Verheul, with the Calgary Police Service's Economic Crimes Unit said the increase in reports could put pressure on other aspects of the police service.

"For the majority of these cases, what happens is the victim phones into our public safety communications, so the increase in call loads there is labour-intensive," she said.

However, this type of theft isn't much of a resource drain for frontline officers, unless the victim has a suspect in mind.

According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, an experienced thief can steal a car in just 30 seconds, noting the presence of unlocked doors or windows can make for an "easy target."

Verheul said these types of theft are usually "crimes of convenience" when a car is left running on a driveway, or unattended for a brief moment outside of a store, and can be avoided.

At one point the CPS saw dozens of cars stolen in one day. On Feb. 13, for instance, 43 vehicles were taken. Many were either left running with the keys inside, or were left for a very short period of time.

In order to combat the trend, the Calgary police service plans to revamp its 'Keyp Your Key' campaign, which encourages the public to keep their keys in a secure area, away from their vehicle.

"'Keep your keys' is a really important concept to help stop these types of thefts," she said noting car theft could make a person vulnerable to future crimes.

"If you have your house key on (your keys) as well, just consider that you have your insurance and registration documents inside your vehicle," she said. "So you are opening up yourself up to becoming a potential target."

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Jobs. City to review every vacant post before rehires

It's not quite a hiring freeze, but Calgary will methodically assess every vacant position on its payroll before reposting the job, under a new directive council approved Monday.

Couns. Peter Demong and Brian Pincott put forward the motion to "explore any and all opportunities for savings through the review of vacant positions" in order to "adapt to new economic realities."

City manager Jeff Fielding said city staff were already doing this to some extent but will redouble their efforts with the new marching orders from council.

"It certainly reinforces the direction we're currently working under," he said.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi, who supported the move, said it's a matter of "good organizational hygiene," in addition to a response to Alberta's slumping economy.

"Every single time we hire somebody, we should be really, really, really sure we need that job," Nenshi said.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Cancer protection

Province bringing in tanning bed rules

After years of study Alberta is to introduce legislation to regulate tanning beds as a way to protect young people from skin cancer.

A spokesman for Alberta Health says a bill is to be tabled sometime during the legislature's spring sitting which begins Tuesday.

Steve Buick says details won't be released until the bill is introduced, but he says it will focus on protecting people under 18 from the effects of artificial tanning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Students brave elements to highlight homelessness issue

The third annual 5 Days for the Homeless event began on Sunday at the University of Calgary campus. On Monday, Meagan Cojocar, right, gathered with her comrades before another night in the cold. JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

Awareness. University of Calgary follows lead of Alberta as group sleeps outside and eats only when fed by public

Ten University of Calgary students are sleeping outside with nothing but a tarp and a sleeping bag this week, all to raise awareness about youth homelessness.

Five Days for The Homeless began at the University of Alberta, and has since spread to 26 universities across Canada. The event lasts five days, with students having no access to money or beds — any food or drink they consume must be donated.

Rachel Petit was at the U of C's first event in 2013, and recalls the temperature dipping to -15 C. "It's really hard to prepare for something like that," she said. "The uncertainty of not knowing where you next meal is from, or waking up freezing from not moving all night, it completely changed my perspective."

This year, Petit's managing the event, overseeing the 10 student volunteers. She said it's the most volunteers she's seen in the three years of the program.

The group hopes to raise $5,000 for Avenue 15, a youth shelter run by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary, but mainly wants to raise awareness about the issue.

The event began Sunday night, and by Monday afternoon, the students described fear, insecurity, cold, exhaustion and hunger.

"We were completely in our sleeping bags because it got so cold, but I just kept thinking about how vulnerable I felt," said Shayna Lawrie.

"Not having anything above you or around you — I've never been exposed to that so that was definitely eye-opening."

JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

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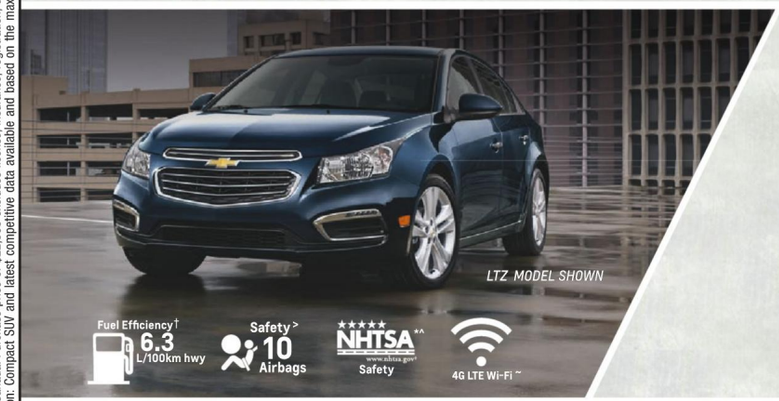

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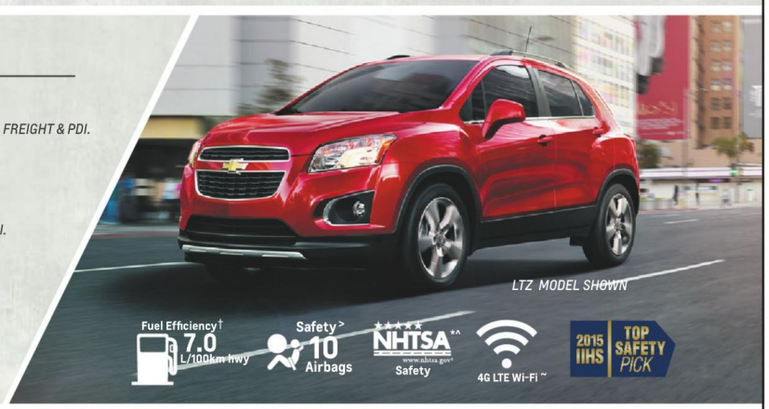

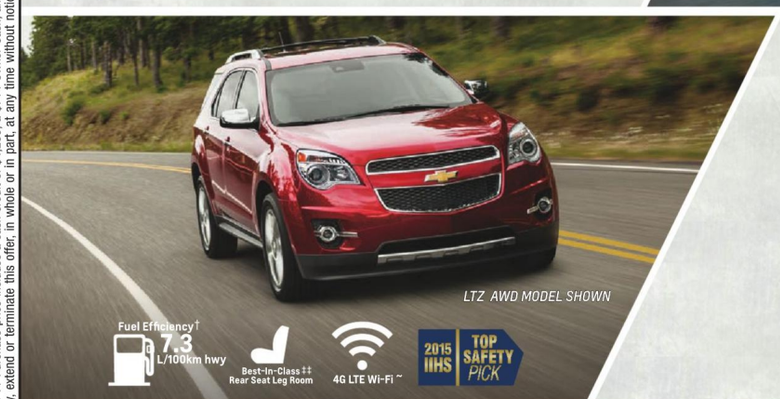

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Credit valid towards the retail purchase or lease of one eligible 2015 model year Chevrolet car, SUV, crossover and pickup models delivered in Canada between March 3 and March 31, 2015. Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) and credit value depends on model purchased: $500 credit available on all Chevrolet Spark, Sonic, Cruze, Volt, Trax, and Malibu (except LS) models; $750 credit available on other Chevrolet vehicles (except Colorado 2SA, Camaro 2SB, Malibu LS, Silverado 1500 and Silverado HD). Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any Pontiac/Saturn/SAAB/Hummer/Oldsmobile model year 1999 or newer car or Chevrolet Cobalt or HHR that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit valid towards the retail purchase or lease of one eligible 2015 model year Chevrolet car, SUV, crossover and pickups models delivered in Canada between March 3 and March 31, 2015. 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Services and connectivity may vary by model and conditions. OnStar with 4G LTE connectivity is available on certain vehicles and in select markets. Customers will be able to access this service only if they accept the OnStar User Terms and Privacy Statement (including software terms). ^ The 2-YearScheduled LOF Maintenance Program provides eligible customers in Canada who have purchased, leased or financed a new eligible 2015 MY Chevrolet, Buick or GMC vehicle (excluding Spark EV) with an ACDelco oil and filter change, in accordance with the Oil Life Monitoring System and the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 40,000 km, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four lube-oil-filter services in total, performed at participating GM dealers. Fluid top-offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc., are not covered. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. 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General Motors of Canada Limited reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. ¥¥ Purchase price includes a cash credit of $4,200, a $714 Owner Cash, and applies to new 2015 Equinox LS FWD models at participating dealers in Canada. Purchase price of $22,995 excludes license, insurance, registration, dealer fees and taxes. Dealer may sell for less. Offer may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. See dealer for details. ‡‡ Comparison based on 2013 Polk segmentation: Compact SUV and latest competitive data available and based on the maximum legroom available. Excludes other GM brands. ^^ Whichever comes first. See dealer for details.

Students slam new Aeroplan program

The province will now accept Aeroplan points to help pay back post-secondary student in Alberta. METRO FILE

Comparing the province's post-secondary minister with Marie Antoinette, Alberta students slammed a new program that allows school debt to be paid off with Aeroplan points.

"They might as well have been saying 'let them eat cake,'" said University of Alberta alum Aditya Rao. "Telling heavily indebted students that their plan for accessible (post-secondary education) is go buy a plane ticket is bizarre."

Metro first reported the province's new program offering HigherEdPoints to enable Alberta students to pay back $250 in student debt with 35,000 Aeroplan miles.

While Rao faces upwards of $100,000 in student loans once he finishes his second degree at the University of Ottawa, he has no plans to tackle his debt with Aeroplan points. "Sure, I have debt and I collect points. But like me, most students don't live (a) 'fiesta cubana' lifestyle."

University of Alberta student union president Navneet Khinda called the new plan absurd. "I don't know whether to laugh or cry," she said. "It just shows to me how out of touch the government is to students."

Khinda said the program would only help students who could either afford to rack up so many points or whose parents had access to travel rewards.

LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

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Shane Homes CEO Cal Wenzel, left, and Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi, right.

'It would ...odd for

Municipal politics. Calgary councillor proposes officially honouring homebuilder who is suing Mayor Naheed Nenshi

The local homebuilding company whose founder is currently suing Mayor Naheed Nenshi for millions of dollars should be officially honoured for its charity work with a plaque from the City of Calgary, one councillor proposed Monday.

Coun. Joe Magliocca asked city manager Jeff Fielding to look into how the city could congratulate Shane Homes for its charitable donations, as part of a larger event set for later this month to celebrate the company's contributions to the city.

"In recognition of a prominent corporation here in Calgary that has donated well over $48 million to different charities ... in the 35 years that they've been in business ... I'd like to be working on a plaque with the City of Calgary," Magliocca said. "So, GM (sic) Fielding, how do I go about that?"

Fielding replied tersely: "We'll take that under advisement and get back to council on what we can do for that."

Magliocca then said, whatever the city does, it would have

P1490102163

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BETWEEN:
ROBERT SCHUETT PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION *(Plaintiff)*
AND: **DON TROTCHIE** *(Defendant)*

To: DON TROTCHIE
Take note that on June 13, 2014, a Civil Claim was filed against you by Robert Schuett Professional Corporation, #200, 602 – 11 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2R 1J8. You may receive a copy of the Plaintiff's documents by contacting the Plaintiff directly at the address above or by calling Robert Schuett at 403-705-1263, or requesting it from the Calgary Courts Centre 601 - 5 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 5P7. If you do not respond to this claim, the court may note you in Default."

METRO FILE

be very the city'

to happen quickly, as "the recognition will be on the 27th of March, so I'd like to have something before that."

Mayor Naheed Nenshi then intervened, telling Magliocca the request is inappropriate.

"Forget who it is," the mayor said. "It is not our practice to do that."

There are "a lot of very, very, generous philanthropists in the city," Nenshi added, "who have given as much or more."

"It would be very, very odd for the city to highlight one organization and not many, many others," he said.

Shane Homes founder Cal Wenzel is currently embroiled in a multi-million-dollar lawsuit against the mayor, alleging Nenshi defamed him publicly in 2013. None of the allegations has been proven in court.

Magliocca, like many council candidates, accepted thousands of dollars in donations from Shane Homes and other local homebuilders ahead of the last municipal election.

Magliocca voluntarily disclosed some of his donors before the Oct. 21, 2013 vote, but waited until the legally mandated disclosure date of March 1, 2014 to publicly declare others, including more than $10,000 in donations from homebuilders, specifically $2,250 from Trico Homes, $4,000 from Shane Homes, and $5,000 from Jayman Master Built.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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MORRISON HOMES

Lawsuit

Ex-medical examiner alleges security gaps, missing guns

Alberta's former chief medical examiner says the coroner computer system is so flawed, staff can go in and change a cause of death without a trace.

Anny Sauvageau also says that people with criminal records are allowed to transport bodies from crime scenes, giving them control over a critical legal chain of evidence.

The allegations are made in a new court filing by Sauvageau, who is suing the province after her contract was not renewed late last year.

She says she was let go because she raised concerns over how the province handles forensic examinations.

She says that in 2011 she inherited a profoundly dysfunctional office with so little oversight, guns from crime scenes were disappearing, and one staffer even took a firearm home.

The province says Sauvageau was not rehired because she had overstepped her bounds of authority and was not getting along well with others.

The allegations have not been proven in court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police

Interim chief named

The Calgary Police Commission has named a 25-year veteran as interim chief when current top dog Rick Hanson steps down Friday.

Paul Cook has served in nearly every area of the Calgary Police Service, the commission said in a release Monday. METRO

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MRU aviation program receives accreditation

Education. Professor attributes recognition to diploma's 'certain quality and a certain amount of rigour'

Second-year aviation student Graham Woods says he's spent a lot of hours inside the $500,000 flight simulator at Mount Royal University. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

It's a little-known fact that Mount Royal University's campus sits on an old air-force field, where commonwealth fighters trained near the end of the Second World War.

Now, 70 years later, the Mount Royal aviation program has become the second of its kind in Canada to be granted a five-year accreditation from the Aviation Accreditation Board International.

"It's incredible to see us come from a tiny flight school and now reach international recognition," said associate professor Leon Cygman. "There's a certain quality and a certain amount of rigour in the program, and I'm very proud of what we've done."

The 45-year-old program now features seven of its own airplanes at Springbank Airport and a $500,000 flight simulator.

The simulator puts students in the most challenging flying situations, including instrument failure, thick cloud cover, and ice storms — without, of course, actually putting any of their lives in danger.

Second-year aviation student Graham Woods wasn't surprised to see the success of his diploma program. He said the diversity in training and education in the business aspect of flying pushes the students to become "real pilots."

"We're more than just bus drivers in the sky," he said. "We can actually do day-to-day operations."

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

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U.S.-led team to join probe of soldier's death

Iraq. Defence minister says there are two investigations of the incident being conducted

The U.S.-led coalition in Iraq is planning to join a pair of Canadian investigations already underway into last week's deadly friendly fire episode in northern Iraq, but experts say if recent history is any guide, the public should temper its expectations about the findings.

In an interview Monday, Gen. Tom Lawson, the country's chief of defence staff, said the international headquarters overseeing the war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is "interested in exactly what happened and therefore will be leading their own investigation."

The involvement of American commanders takes the concern about the deadly mistake — which claimed the life of 31-year-old Sgt. Andrew Doiron — to a completely different level, especially in light of a call for U.S. special forces to be operating at the front line.

Quoted

"Obviously, our (special forces) operators are ensuring that steps are taken to ensure there is no repeat of this tragic incident."

Defence Minister Jason Kenney

Prime Minister Stephen Harper spoke Monday with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who expressed his condolences over the death, Canada's first overseas casualty in the war against ISIL.

Defence Minister Jason Kenney implored opposition parties to let due process unfold.

There is a military police case and a technical investigation, known as a board of inquiry — both of which are standard procedure whenever a soldier dies in the line of duty.

As part of the technical investigation, the special forces are conducting their own internal review.

Even so, there are significant organizational and cultural barriers that cause both a former special forces commander and a leading defence analyst to wonder if anyone can be held responsible, and whether such calamities can truly be avoided in the future.

"Whether somebody will be held accountable for this, I don't know," said Roland Paris, director of the Centre for International Policy Studies at the University of Ottawa.

Prosecuting friendly-fire cases between nations, even among advanced western armies, is a tenuous matter, one usually fraught with diplomatic drawbacks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pamela Wallin accused of fraud

The RCMP has made a series of allegations against suspended senator Pamela Wallin. It's alleged she misrepresented corporate board meetings, dinner with a former lover and a personal medical appointment as Senate business to claim reimbursement for her expenses. Documents filed by the Mounties in court allege Wallin defrauded the Senate by making 150 "suspicious" expense claims. No charges have been laid against Wallin, who was suspended last year, and none of the allegations have been proven in court. Wallin is pictured at a media scrum Nov. 5, 2013, outside the Senate on Parliament Hill. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veterans

Tories propose retirement benefit

The Tories are proposing a new retirement benefit to help stave off old-age financial hardship for some of Canada's severely disabled soldiers, addressing a long-standing concern of veterans' advocates. The benefit would provide troops with injuries a monthly income support payment beginning at age 65, Veterans Affairs Minister Erin O'Toole said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Islamic cyber-pirates

Bloc Québécois website hacked

Islamic cyber-pirates said Monday they attacked the website of the Bloc Québécois because of the party's position against the wearing of a veil during citizenship ceremonies. Several other sites that were hosted by the same server as the Bloc's were also targeted, including the website for a campsite. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Alabama

Group recalls Bloody Sunday

About 100 people set out Monday to commemorate the historic "Bloody Sunday" demonstration and retrace the steps taken 50 years ago when demonstrators pushing for voting rights for blacks marched from Selma to the state capitol in Montgomery. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lethal injection

Texas seeks more execution drugs

Texas's prison agency is scrambling to find a supplier to replenish its inventory of execution drugs, which will be used up if the state goes forward with two lethal injections scheduled for this week and next.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wisconsin

Man shot was a risk-taker: Report

Tony Robinson, an unarmed black man fatally shot by a white Wisconsin police officer, faced a choice between a middle-class lifestyle and the gang world and tended to be an impulsive risk-taker, according to court documents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fraternity members involved in racist chant 'disgraceful': University of Oklahoma president

Students at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house load up a moving truck on Monday with their belongings at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla. President David Boren of the University of Oklahoma severed the school's ties with a national fraternity on Monday and ordered that its on-campus house be shuttered after several members took part in a racist chant caught in an online video. It shows several people on a bus participating in a chant that included a racial slur, referenced lynching and indicated black students would never be admitted to the university's chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Boren attended a pre-dawn rally organized by students and lambasted those fraternity members as "disgraceful" and called their behaviour "reprehensible." He said the university was looking into a range of punishment, including expulsion. NICK OXFORD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senators warn nuke deal may not last

Politics. Republicans criticize lack of congressional approval

Forty-seven Republican senators warned on Monday that any agreement the Obama administration strikes with Iran to limit Tehran's nuclear program may be short-lived unless Congress approves the deal. The White House accused the Republicans of advocating a "rush to war."

In an open letter to Iranian leaders, freshman Sen. Tom Cotton and 46 other Republicans said that without congressional approval any deal between Iran and the U.S. would be merely an agreement between President Barack Obama and Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"The next president could revoke such an executive agreement with the stroke of a pen," they wrote, "and future Congresses could modify the terms of the agreement at any time."

The U.S. and other nations are seeking a pact that would let Western powers verify that Iran will not obtain a nuclear weapon.

At the White House, spokesman Josh Earnest said the Republican letter interferes with negotiations over limiting Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

"I would describe this letter as the continuation of a partisan strategy to undermine the president's ability to conduct foreign policy and advance our national security interests around the globe," Earnest said. "The rush to war or at least the rush to the military option that many Republicans are advocating is not at all in the best interest of the United States."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Africa. Nations ramp up fight against Boko Haram

Soldiers from Chad and Niger launched the largest international push to defeat Nigeria's Islamic extremists, whose war has spilled over into neighbouring countries, officials and witnesses said Monday. Chad's president has warned that the leader of Boko Haram must surrender or be killed.

At least 200 vehicles full of soldiers were spotted by residents crossing from Niger into Nigeria. Loud detonations were soon heard, signalling heavy combat with Boko Haram, said Adam Boukarna, a resident of the border town of Bosso, Niger.

The push marks a sharp escalation by African nations against Boko Haram nearly six years after the group began its insurrection. At an African Union (AU) summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Jan. 31, African leaders agreed to send 7,500 troops to fight Boko Haram. Later, neighbouring countries agreed to increase the force to 8,750. UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has said he supports the AU's move.

Elections in Nigeria

The new offensive comes just weeks before Nigeria holds elections many fear will be marred by violence, including from Boko Haram.

The new offensive includes troops from Niger for the first time, in addition to Chadian forces that were already carrying out missions in Nigeria, Chadian Brig. Gen. Zakaria Ngobongue said Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philippines. Military kills 73 Muslim rebels

Philippine forces have killed 73 hard-line Muslim rebels and a suspected foreign militant in a three-week offensive in the restive south, where 44 anti-terror police commandos were killed in January in a clash with insurgents, the military said Monday.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc said six soldiers had been killed and 29 others have been wounded in the assaults that started Feb. 25 and have displaced about 25,000 villagers in a marshy region in the boundary of Maguindanao and North Cotabato provinces.

Military chief of staff Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang ordered the assault against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement rebels after they attacked civilian villages. The rebels have also been implicated in the Jan. 25 killings of 44 commandos during a raid to hunt a suspected terrorist in Maguindanao.

Numbering a few hundred, the insurgents broke off a few years ago from the main Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which signed a new Muslim autonomy deal with the government last year. The breakaway rebels vowed to continue fighting for a separate Muslim homeland.

"We have degraded their capability to conduct atrocities. They are running out of ammunition," Cabunoc told reporters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine approaches one-year mark since start of conflict

People pass by a destroyed building in Vuhlehirsk, Ukraine, on Monday. More than 6,000 people have died in eastern Ukraine since the start of the conflict almost a year ago that has led to a "merciless devastation of civilian lives and infrastructure," according to the UN human-rights office. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nine abducted by ISIL in deadly oilfield attack

Libya. Seizure of foreign workers last week also saw militants behead eight guards

Quoted

"This is the lifeline of the Libyan people."

Libya's military spokesman Ahmed al-Mesmari, on the country's petroleum industry, adding that losing it to ISIL would be dire

Militants from Libya's Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) affiliate beheaded eight Libyan guards in an attack on a central oilfield last week in which the extremists abducted nine foreigners, a Libyan spokesman said Monday.

Philippine authorities said Monday that four of their nationals were among the nine abducted from the oil field. An Austrian, a Czech, a Bangladeshi and a Ghana national were also taken, while one hostage remains unidentified.

Friday's attack on the al-Ghani oilfield near the town of Zalla, some 750 kilometres southeast of the capital Tripoli, was part of a series of deadly assaults on Libya's oil lucrative infrastructure by the ISIL group.

The attacks in recent weeks have forced Libya to declare 11 fields non-operational, including al-Ghani, and invoke a force majeure clause that exempts the state from contractual obligations.

Libya's military spokesman, Ahmed al-Mesmari, warned that ISIL militants' long-term goal is to take over Libya's petroleum industry.

During the attack on al-Ghani, an employee watched the beheadings of the eight oil guards and subsequently died of a heart attack, al-Mesmari said. He did not elaborate on how the army knew about the beheadings, but the force serving as oil guards is closely allied to the Libyan military, which answers to the eastern-based government, one of Libya's two rival governments. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Apple unveils long-awaited watch

New product. Watch is the first brand-new device Apple has launched without Steve Jobs

Make calls, read email, control music, manage Instagram photos, keep up with your workout, pay for groceries, open your hotel room door. CEO Tim Cook says you can do it all from your wrist with Apple Watch — for 18 hours a day. That's how long the battery will last on an average day.

Pre-orders start April 10. In Canada, the devices will range from $449 to as much as $22,000 for a luxury edition.

Industry watchers are eager to see if Apple's version will be the tipping point for the sluggish smartwatch market. There was similar skepticism when Apple released the iPad in 2010, yet the company has successfully sold millions and its popularity has shaken up the PC market.

The stakes are high for a company that just dislodged AT&T as one of the 30 stocks comprising the venerable Dow Jones industrial average.

Apple is entering a market in which numerous tech companies are already selling smartwatches, from the Samsung Gear and Motorola's Moto 360 to the Pebble Steel and other models made by smaller startups.

Many run on Android Wear, the software platform from Google. They range in price from $100 to $500 or more, but most don't have as many features as the Apple Watch, and they have not been big hits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prices

The watches are available in two sizes, with 38-millimetre and 42-millimetre bodies.

- The Apple Watch Sport is priced at $449 and $519 in Canada, the mid-range Apple Watch is priced between $699 and $1,459 depending on the style of band, and Apple Watch Edition models start at $13,000.

Apple CEO Tim Cook unveils the Apple Watch. ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alberta. Tainted feed not yet proved as BSE source

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz says figuring out how an Alberta cow was infected with BSE is like looking for a needle in a haystack.

The beef breeding cow was discovered last month on a farm near Edmonton and was born on a nearby farm. Another cow born at the same location in 2004 tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy in 2010.

Officials have said that no material from either cow made it into human or animal food.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency continues the complex task of checking cattle born on the farm to see whether they may have been exposed to the same feed as the BSE cow, although it hasn't been determined yet whether infected feed caused the disease in this case.

Ritz says a number of countries that have temporarily suspended imports of Canadian beef are being kept in the loop, but he points out they only account for about five per cent of Canada's worldwide market.

Ritz was in Calgary for the official opening of the Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence. Ottawa invested $3.4 million to help set up the centre, which is being operated by Canada Beef Inc., a national organization that handles research, marketing and promotion of the Canadian cattle and beef industry worldwide.

The facility will provide space and resources to help the industry promote new products, training and education focused on the technical advantages of Canadian beef.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gerry Ritz, minister of agriculture, slices beef at the opening of the Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence in Calgary on Monday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Credit reports. Agencies make disputing errors easier

Disputing a mistake on credit reports could get easier and the effects of medical debt less severe under changes being made by the three largest credit-reporting agencies.

The Monday announcement by Equifax, Experian and TransUnion comes after months of negotiations between the companies and New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.

Under the changes, people who contest items in their credit reports will receive more information concerning those disputes, including instructions on what they can do if they don't like the answer they get. In a bid to increase accuracy, medical debts won't be reported until after a 180-day waiting period to allow time for insurance payments to be applied.

The agencies agreed to remove from credit reports previously reported medical collections that have been or are being paid by insurance companies.

Equifax, Experian and TransUnion are honing their focus to help victims of identity theft and fraud.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supermarkets

Loblaw planning $1.2B expansion

Loblaw Companies Ltd. says it will build 50 new stores and renovate or improve more than 100 others across the country in 2015, creating about 5,000 jobs.

The company, which operates several banners including Loblaws, No Frills, Fortinos and Shoppers Drug Mart, will also look to make more investments in its e-commerce offering, supply chain and IT infrastructure.

The total amount Loblaw plans to spend in 2015 on these initiatives is expected to top $1.2 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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Dow Jones: 17,995.72 (+ 138.94)

VOICES

GETTING ON BOARD WITH VISION ZERO

We've built our cities in a way that requires us to do a statistically dangerous thing every day. It's time to make that thing safe.

KIMBERLY JONES
calgary@metronews.ca

Everyone makes mistakes. Thankfully, most are mistakes we can come back from.

However, a split-second decision by a driver, cyclist or pedestrian can become an irreparable mistake. A failure to look into a crosswalk before making a left turn can result in a driver killing a pedestrian, or a quick look at their cellphone while stepping into a crosswalk could lead to a pedestrian getting hit by a car that was clearing the intersection.

With the upcoming discussion on pedestrian mobility in Calgary, there's an opportunity to avoid these types of mistakes before they have a chance to happen.

In Canada in 2011, collisions involving motor vehicles were the sixth leading cause of death for people aged 20 to 64 and first for those aged one to 19. In 2010, 18,253 people were injured in motor-vehicle collisions in Alberta. In the name of convenience and growth, we've built our cities in a way that requires us to do a statistically dangerous thing every day, and we have chosen to avoid thinking about it too much rather than doing something to fix it.

We treat deaths on our roads as tragic, unavoidable accidents, when in fact they are unacceptable and avoidable.

If falls from playground equipment were a leading cause of death for our children, would we simply state that it's the price we pay for play? Or would we demand that playground equipment be made safer?

We wouldn't sweep the problem under the rug and claim that there's nothing to be done, as we do with transportation-related deaths and injuries.

Thankfully, it's not too late to change the way we address safety on our roads.

Sweden has experienced success with a plan they call Vision Zero, which has since been adopted in cities worldwide, including Seattle, New York and San Francisco. Vision Zero plans demonstrate a real commitment by governments to work toward zero traffic fatalities.

A suite of design, legal and educational solutions are included, which when implemented will build a safer transportation system for all.

Many of these solutions attempt to minimize mistakes being made or make the results less catastrophic when we do blunder.

Some examples of initiatives included in these plans are lower speed limits in residential areas, better design and lighting of crosswalks, tougher penalties for things such as distracted driving or failure to yield to a pedestrian and compiling data on particularly dangerous intersections and roads to target them for specific intervention.

Calgary has a great opportunity to include Vision Zero in its upcoming Pedestrian Strategy. Bringing in a plan including such principles would make the city better — not only for pedestrians but for people using all transportation modes to get around.

Remembering that human beings are not perfect and that we must make every effort to ensure safety for all citizens, we can and should design cities that allow us to go about our daily lives, and even make mistakes, without horrific consequences.

Kimberly Jones has lived in Calgary for 35 years. She is a transportation advocate, particularly interested in walking and public transit, and studies urban issues and planning.

In Canada in 2011, collisions involving motor vehicles were the sixth leading cause of death for people aged 20 to 64 and first for those aged one to 19. ISTOCK

Apple Watch: Addressing problems that never were problems

JUSTIN LEE
readers@metronews.ca

Apple announced Monday details about its heavily-anticipated, yet arguably unnecessary Apple Watch, which hits shelves next month.

The smart watch connects to iPhone 5 or later models to receive notifications about incoming mail, messages, calls and events, and is loaded with enough features to impress Penny from Inspector Gadget.

In fact, the Apple Watch seems nothing more than a micro version of an iPhone or iPad.

But instead of having to physically reach for the device, you have immediate access — anytime or anywhere — since you're physically wearing it.

By being "plugged in" round the clock, you'll never miss a chance to apply a Valencia filter to that kale salad post or "swipe left" whenever you see a profile pic of some sociopath canoodling with a tiger.

"Communication" technology

Instead of bringing us closer together, this so-called communication technology has transformed us into a more distant, jaded, and colder culture.

And I suppose that's the greatest drawback to technology in the 21st century — that it somehow addresses problems that never were considered problems in the first place.

Back in the day, advancements in technology were wholly necessary. We didn't have a means to travel far distances in a reasonable amount of time, so we invented planes, trains and automobiles. We didn't have a way to verbally communicate with our friends, families, and pushy telemarketers who interrupt our dinner, so we invented the telephone.

But at what point has anyone ever said, "Gee, I really wish there was some way I could instantly access an entire library on the go, even though I can only physically read one book at a time. You never know when you might feel compelled to reread that titillating tampon scene in Fifty Shades of Grey."

Or when was the last time anyone has ever thought, "I really wish I had a pair of glasses that would allow me to view a video clip of a sunrise instead of an actual sunrise"?

Civilization has become so consumed with inventing new and efficient ways to perform even the most innocuous of tasks.

Twenty years ago, we would take time out of our busy lives to talk to our friends and family in person or over the phone.

Now we can't even seem to reply to a simple text.

Instead of bringing us closer together, this so-called communication technology has transformed us into a more distant, jaded, and colder culture.

Technology has become a never-ending cycle: We create solutions to problems, which in turn generates a new set of problems that we need to tackle.

To quote Damon Albarn of Blur, "We're everyday robots in control / in the process of being sold / Driving in adjacent cars / 'Til you press restart."

Although the Apple Watch will not help you foil Dr. Claw's latest evil plan, it certainly might bring Apple one step closer to achieving world domination.

Justin Lee is a Toronto-based writer, DJ and documentary filmmaker who enjoys exploring music, arts and culture and social issues.

metro

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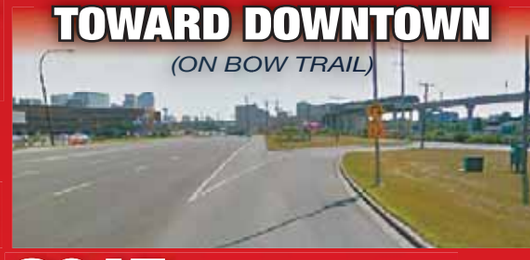

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Filmmaking

Director pleads guilty in train crash death

The director of a movie about musician Gregg Allman pleaded guilty Monday in a train crash that killed a camera assistant and injured six film workers. In exchange, prosecutors dropped charges against his wife and business partner.

The case is a rare example of filmmakers being prosecuted for deaths on their sets.

As part of the plea deal, director Randall Miller will spend two years in the county jail and another eight on probation on involuntary manslaughter and criminal trespassing charges. He also will pay a $20,000 fine.

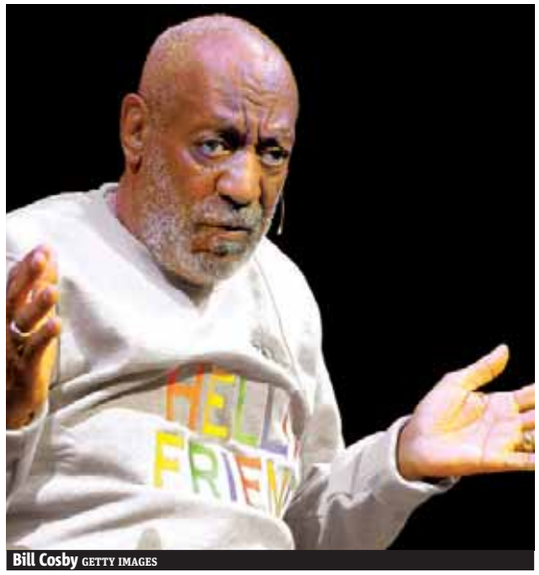
In the crash a year ago, a freight train travelling 55 m.p.h. plowed into the director's crew on a Georgia railroad bridge.

The Midnight Rider movie has been in limbo since the crash. Allman sued Miller to prevent the director from reviving the film. They settled out of court last year, and terms were not disclosed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Film director Randall Miller THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cosby promo fail



Bill Cosby GETTY IMAGES

Showing further signs of not-terribly-great judgment, Bill Cosby released an awkward, amateur-ish video message to promote an upcoming gig. In it, the embattled comic icon is on the phone trying to convince someone to come see the show. "You know I'll be hilarious," he says in the 10-second clip, first released to ABC News. He accompanied the video with a written message: "Dear fans, I hope you enjoy my wonderful video message," he writes. "Hey, hey, hey, I'm far from finished." While the video might not be as wonderful as he insists, it does raise a lot of questions: Is that a rotary phone? Why is this shot like an ISIS hostage video? Are those silk pyjamas? Also, can we address how terrible a slogan "I'm far from finished" is for a man accused of more than 30 separate acts of sexual assault?

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Simpsons co-creator dies

Sam Simon, a co-creator of The Simpsons and animal-rights advocate who made a midlife career shift into philanthropy and channeled much of his personal fortune into social causes, has died. Simon died Sunday at his home in Pacific Palisades, Calif., his agent, Andy Patman said. He was 59. He was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer in 2011. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sam Simon THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Video may prove Suge is innocent

Graphic video footage has surfaced of the Jan. 29 hit-and-run incident near the Los Angeles set of the film Straight Outta Compton that landed Death Row Records founder Suge Knight behind bars, according to TMZ. The video, taken from the surveillance footage of a burger joint where the incident took place, will be used as evidence by both the prosecution and the defence in any upcoming trial, as Knight's defence team believe the footage exonerates their client by proving he was the victim of an armed ambush.

Suge Knight GETTY IMAGES

"Say what you know, do what you must, come what may."

› Sofia Kovalevskaya: *Problem-Solving Pioneer*

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PlayStation harnesses the Powers of TV

New series. Adapted from a comic, scripted drama is a first for the gaming network

Ability does not imply accomplishment. And accomplishment is no prerequisite for fame.

This we know all too well from reality TV. But today's viral sprawl of celebrity is explored in fresh fashion by a new series spawned from what some viewers might deem an unlikely source: comic books.

Powers is a new series whose 10-episode season is the latest blossoming of scripted TV fare from unexpected sources. PlayStation network is home base for the show, the first original scripted series on the network.

Starting Tuesday, Powers will be free to PlayStation subscribers, with the first episode free to anyone for streaming through the PlayStation Store website (a PlayStation console is not required). Subsequent episodes will be available for purchase by non-subscribers.

Powers is set in a two-tier society where ordinary humans must coexist with a superior class who, thanks to random distribution, are endowed with superpowers which they employ for good or, just as often, for non-heroic purposes like crime.

Maintaining order among superhumans places a heavy burden on law enforcement. Powers focuses on a pair of homicide detectives, Christian Walker (played by Sharlto Copley) and Deena Pilgrim. They investigate cases involving those people of disruptive privilege known as Powers.

Walker used to be a superstar superhero, with a superbad-guy reputation. But then his powers disappeared.

The department's only cop who can identify with the Powers elite, he is haunted by memories of flying and other abilities he once possessed.

Powers has been in development for the screen for 15 years, says series co-creator Brian Michael Bendis, who created the comic in 2000 with Michael Avon Oeming. It was first adapted as a possible film project, then evolved into this series and was snapped up by PlayStation. He acknowledges there might be a bit of confusion about the PlayStation venue.

"Some people think our show is webisodes," he says with a laugh. "But this is a fully budgeted, network-style show. And what I want for it isn't a faithful adaptation, word-for-word, of the comic, but almost like a parallel universe, with the same theme and characters, telling its own story and going its own way."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sharlto Copley, left, and Susan Heyward star in Powers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Choosing the program that's right for you is a big decision. That's why SAIT Polytechnic offers information sessions – your golden opportunity to discover your program options, ask questions and sometimes, tour our campus.

Our sessions are free and range in topic and timing. Details on all our sessions can be found on the events calendar at sait.ca.

Here are just a few we're offering this month:

HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

Prepare for a global career in the exciting and fast-paced world of Hospitality and Tourism. Attend a free, informative session to learn about one of these industry-connected programs:

• Baking and Pastry Arts • Butchery and Charcuterie Management • Hospitality Management • Professional Cooking • Travel and Tourism

Join us on Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 pm on SAIT main campus.
Register online at sait.ca or email hospitality.info@sait.ca to confirm your attendance.

ENERGY ASSET MANAGEMENT

Want to be a mover and a shaker in the oil and gas industry? In our Energy Asset Management diploma program you'll study the business-side of the energy industry and gain a solid understanding of the technical-side as well. You will leave SAIT with relevant skill in administration of the regulatory, financial, and contractual compliance workflow, enabling you to confidently enter the high-demand field of energy asset management.

Join us on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 pm in Room KA338 in the Johnson-Cobbe Energy Centre.
Call 403.284.8451 or Email energy.mse@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

SAIT POLYTECHNIC

Instagram. Show has on-air potential

A new interactive Instagram series from American comedian Chris Hardwick's @midnight kicked off on Monday but its future depends entirely on an active, imaginative fan base.

Crammed into 15 seconds, the first episode of Plot Twistagram features a drowsy young man who heads to the kitchen to make some breakfast. After electrocuting himself making some burnt toast, he comes face-to-face with some seemingly radioactive cereal — and, enter the cliffhanger. It will be up to viewers to decide what happens next by leaving a comment on the photo-sharing app.

For now, this off-air spin of the eponymous weeknight Internet-inspired improv game show, will only take place on Instagram. But Mashable reports that depending on audience response, the concept could become an on-air game show. The show's team will select the best scenario and film it to be shown every Monday.

Joe Farrell, co-executive producer of @midnight and director of development at Funny or Die explained to Mashable that the show will ultimately become a whole comedy based on Instagram comments.

AFP

Arcade Fire's Will Butler has a new Policy

Anyone who has seen Arcade Fire live knows that Will Butler doesn't like to sit still.

The younger Butler brother is a combustible bundle of twitchy energy onstage, so it's no surprise that his debut solo album, Policy, is a restless firecracker that manages to showcase — in only eight songs — plenty of styles. As he spun the new sounds for his Arcade Fire bandmates — including frontman brother Win — on the road during the Reflektor tour, it was the album's wandering nature that most stood out.

"Everyone's response was similar," Butler said. "It was like, 'Oh, I mean, it's very diverse, which I like. But will people like it? You should think about if you want it to be so diverse or if you should stylistically unify it."

"I experimented with focusing the esthetic," he added later, "and I couldn't maintain it for more than 15 minutes."

The record's sprawling range is understandable given Butler's panoramic instrumental aptitude. Over the course of four Arcade Fire records, he's been credited with playing: guitar, piano, bass (electric and upright), synth, clarinet, organ, sitar, trombone, panpipes, glockenspiel, musical saw, omnichord, xylophone, concertina and gadulka.

On his first solitary sojourn, Butler strayed from Arcade Fire's notoriously arduous creative process.

"Collaboration with amazing artists is such a joy, but it is a lot of psychological work,'' he said. "But this time around, it was perfectly liberating and exciting and fun."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Will Butler
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Who needs a noggin when the answers to life's questions are always at your fingertips. ISTOCK

Not-so-smartphone?

Wellness. Researchers examining whether smartphones are making users lazier and less astute

Goodbye gadget

- In three experiments that involved a total of 660 participants, the research team analyzed users' smartphone habits in relation to their cognitive style and verbal and quantitative skills.
- The same participants performed better on the same tests and demonstrated greater willingness to think analytically when they were separated from their smartphones, according to the study.

Having the world at our fingertips diminishes the role of our brains in daily life, according to researchers in Canada.

"Decades of research has revealed that humans are eager to avoid expending effort when problem-solving, and it seems likely that people will increasingly use their smartphones as an extended mind," says lead author Nathaniel Barr, a post-doctoral researcher in reasoning and decision making at the University of Waterloo.

Highly intelligent people approach problem-solving in a manner that's analytical rather than intuitive, yet smartphones allow them to second-guess themselves, say the researchers.

The problem leaves no one behind, for intuitive thinkers who rely on their gut instinct simply turn to their devices rather than their brainpower.

"Our research provides support for an association between heavy smartphone use and lowered intelligence," says co-author Gordon Pennycook, a PhD candidate in psychology at the University of Waterloo.

"Whether smartphones actually decrease intelligence is still an open question that requires future research."

The study, published in the journal Computers in Human Behavior, bears grim implications on the cognition of an aging population.

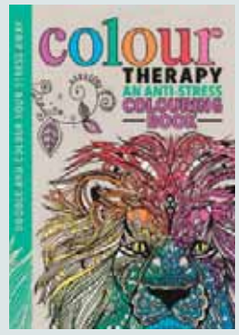
"Our reliance on smartphones and other devices will likely only continue to rise," says Barr.

"It's important to understand how smartphones affect and relate to human psychology before these technologies are so fully ingrained that it's hard to recall what life was like without them. We may already be at that point."

To recall what life was like in the pre-smartphone era, try leaving the house without it every once in a while —- it might do more good than harm.

AFP

Therapy



Latest adult colouring book focuses on anti-stress benefit

A growing trend among adults, colouring books are said to help de-stress and unwind and are slowly taking off outside Europe, where the trend originated.

The latest example, Colour Therapy: An Anti-Stress Colouring Book, is out this week in Britain before heading to the other side of the Atlantic in June.

A way of passing the time and clearing one's thoughts — during breaks from Candy Crush, at least — colouring books began taking off in France a few years ago and have grown increasingly popular there; among them, books by Lisa Magano have been nearly instant hits and Secret Garden (sold in France as "Jardin secret") by Johanna Basford was a success in 2013.

Basford's book also became a popular title in the U.K., where the trend is picking up speed.

UK publishing house Michael O'Mara has put out several colouring books over the last year, selling more than 300,000 copies, and this latest, Colour Therapy — which follows on from previous titles Art Therapy and Creative Therapy — emphasizes the pastime's intended therapeutic benefits. AFP

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Veggie meal packs a protein punch

Dinner. Instead of boiling mini cabbages, try roasting them in this low-calorie Tofu and Brussels Sprouts side dish

Tofu has long been discussed as a functional food for managing menopause because of its plant-based estrogen.

But it is also a great, low-calorie, lean protein that can be delicious when roasted with Brussels sprouts.

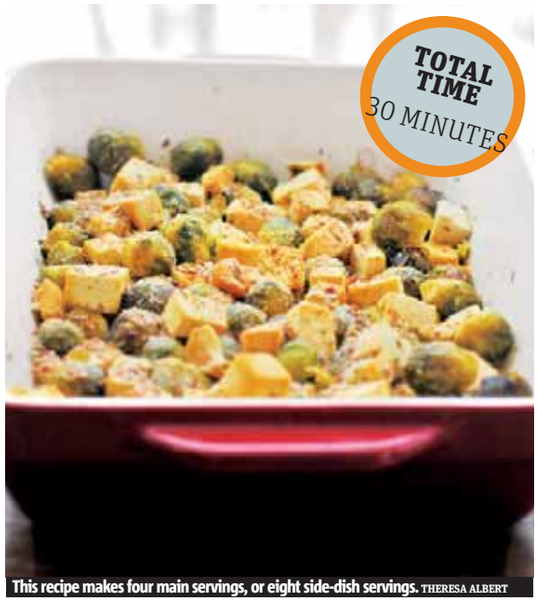
This is a great side dish but it is also a perfect vegetarian meal on its own. Simply bake the dish in single serving dishes and top with a bit of Parmesan cheese.

1. Toss Brussels sprouts with tofu and spread into a large, low casserole. Drizzle and toss with melted butter and sprinkle with thyme.

2. Bake the dish in a 400 F oven for 20-25 minutes until they begin to brown.

3. Mix together Parmesan cheese and ground flax; salt and pepper as desired. Sprinkle this mixture on top and bake the Tofu and Brussels Sprouts dish for 5-10 more minutes.

THERESA ALBERT



This recipe makes four main servings, or eight side-dish servings. THERESA ALBERT

Ingredients

- 4 cups frozen baby Brussels sprouts
- 6-8 oz organic firm tofu, small cubes
- 1 tbsp melted butter
- 1 tsp fresh thyme
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tbsp ground flax
- Sea salt and pepper

Health Solutions

Learn to love Brussels sprouts

NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

Brussels sprouts are little baby cabbages with all of the same nutrients.

They are absolutely adorable when they grow on a tall, sturdy stock and look like little buttons.

They are hearty, cold-weather vegetables that can handle a frost or two, which is why they are usually harvested in fall.

Raw and fresh, they do require about the same kind of attention as green beans in that they need to be trimmed of the woody end.

Honestly, this is one of the vegetables that I actually prefer to buy frozen. Straight out of the freezer, they are more tender and pre-trimmed so a quick steam makes a weeknight meal a breeze.

Nutritionally they do pack a punch with one sprout providing 35 per cent of a day's worth of vitamin K.

They are also high in vitamins C and A as well as potassium and fibre making them the perfect heart-healthy choice.

The trick to Brussels sprouts is to not overcook them. Doing so creates a disgusting sulphur smell.

You do, however, have to score them to be sure they cook through the tougher base. Roasting helps to caramelize the sugars and make for a sweeter, softer vegetable pleasure.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

CFL

Stampeders ink Mayo to extension

The Calgary Stampeders signed linebacker Deron Mayo to a contract extension Monday.

Mayo, 26, started 17 games last season and finished third in the club in tackles with 67. He also had two sacks and a team-high two fumble recoveries in helping Calgary win the Grey Cup.

"Deron has established himself as an excellent CFL linebacker and has become an important member of our defence," said Calgary coach/GM John Hufnagel in a statement. "He has the ability to play sideline to sideline and is consistently around the football."

Mayo joined the Stampeders in 2012 and became a starter the following season. He has appeared in 50 regular-season games, amassing 133 tackles, eight sacks, four fumble recoveries and an interception.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Police: Johnson unco-operative after shooting

New York Jets running back Chris Johnson was unco-operative with deputies who responded over the weekend to a fatal shooting that left him and a friend with bullet wounds and the driver of their car dead, according to an Orange County Sheriff's Office report released Monday.

Chris Johnson was shot in the right shoulder when someone pulled up next to the Jeep and started firing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamonic continually adding to repertoire

NHL. Invite to Canada's Olympic camp sparked improvement for Islanders blue-liner

Travis Hamonic remains a shutdown defenceman but has added more offence to his game for the first-place Islanders. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Travis Hamonic would've had to blow Canada's management group away with his play to make the Sochi Olympic team. Still, the New York Islanders defenceman was at orientation camp in August 2013, which meant something.

"I certainly felt like I was deserving of it," Hamonic said.

Almost two seasons later, Hamonic is proving it on a deep blue-line for the first-place Islanders. The native of St. Malo, Man., has become a more well-rounded player in part because of that camp experience.

As one of the youngest players in Calgary, Hamonic asked questions of Shea Weber, Duncan Keith and Brent Seabrook, among others, and tried to use that advice in his own maturation process in the NHL.

"I certainly went in with my eyes and ears open and my mouth shut and tried to learn as much as I could from the older guys," Hamonic said Monday. "When Hockey Canada shows that kind of confidence in you, you want to try and take it over to your own game and try to prove you belong."

Hamonic remains a strong, right-handed-shooting shutdown defenceman but has added a bit more offence to his game. With two assists in the Islanders' 4-3 overtime win over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Monday night, Hamonic pushed his point total on the season to 27 — a new career high — on four goals and 23 assists.

"Travis, it doesn't surprise me where he's at," Islanders coach Jack Capuano said. "He's one of those guys that competes extremely hard every day, whether it's a practice or a game, and that's what you want to see in your players."

Instead of thinking too much about joining the rush, Hamonic has been situationally aware and less afraid to take chances.

"Skating is probably one of my better attributes that I have," the 24-year-old said. "I think I'm just trying to find a way to use it to my advantage a little bit more often and not get caught up the ice and when I have an opportunity to go, just go."

Hamonic credits confidence, and some of that came from Hockey Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"This is season No. 5 for me, and every season I've tried to develop a little bit more and try to make a bit more of a name for myself."

Islanders defenceman Travis Hamonic

4 SPORTS

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Hernandez seen carrying firearm in video: Prosecutors

Surveillance footage. Prosecutors say former New England Patriot filmed holding weapon hours before Odin Lloyd was murdered

Home surveillance video played Monday in the murder trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez shows him holding what prosecutors say is a gun and leaving his house with two co-defendants hours before the killing.

Hernandez is accused of the June 17, 2013 killing of Odin Lloyd, who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée. Lloyd was found shot to death in an industrial park not far from Hernandez's home.

Aaron Hernandez
BOSTON GLOBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

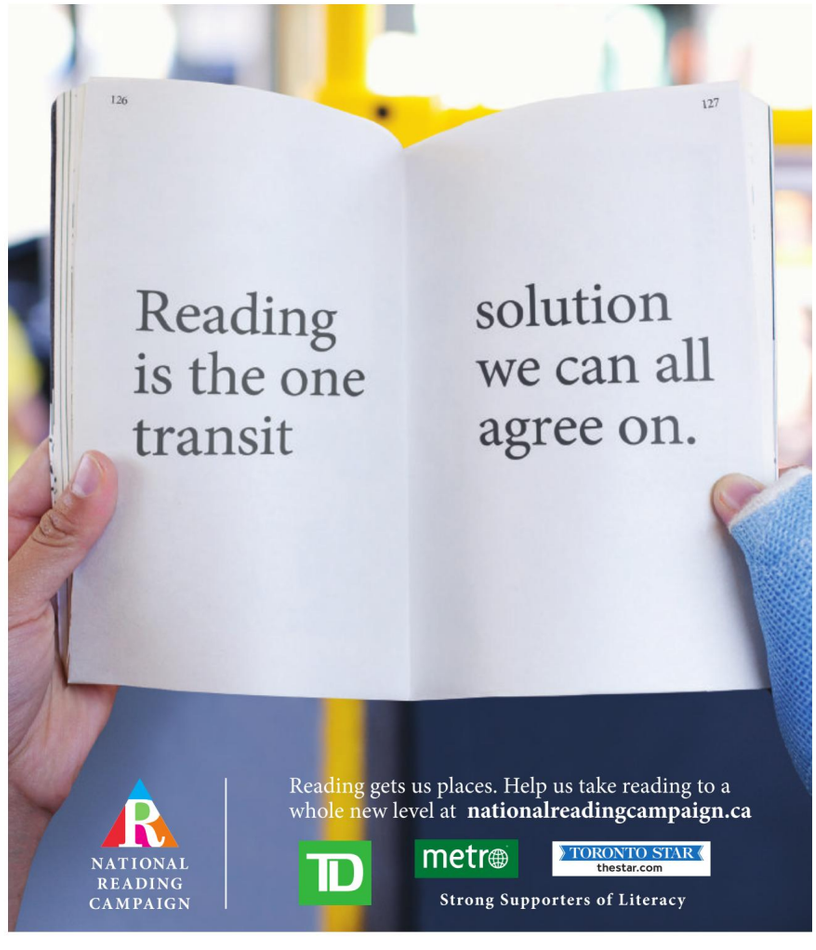
The video, taken by an extensive surveillance system in and around Hernandez's home, shows him returning home from a night out celebrating Father's Day with his fiancée, Shayanna Jenkins. They are greeted by two of Hernandez's friends, Ernest Wallace and Carlos Ortiz, who are also charged in the murder. Both men have pleaded not guilty and will be tried separately.

Object

The object in question is difficult to make out in the video, which is taken from across the room and isn't sharp. Hernandez's legal team has suggested it was a remote control or other device.

Prosecutors played the video Monday during testimony by Jennifer Fortier, 28, who babysat for Hernandez's and Jenkins' infant daughter that night. On one clip, Hernandez can be seen walking through the living room carrying a black object at about 12:45 a.m.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
With your ruler Mars on great terms with luck planet Jupiter you will make a big impression over the next 24 hours. Don't let your ego get out of hand.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The answers are easy to find but ask the right questions. Take a look at the world. Who is in charge? Answer that qustion and all else will fall into place.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The dice are loaded in your favour. All you have to do is throw them with confidence. On the work front especially you need to take a few risks.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
With Mars and Jupiter perfectly aligned today success is a foregone conclusion. No matter how many times you have been rebuffed in the past you will get what you want now.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Set yourself a challenge and go all out to make a success of it. Jupiter in your sign, although moving retrograde, makes this the kind of day when limits do not exist, at least not for you.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may be logical but try not to be too rational in your thinking today because it will limit you. If you want something enough you will find a way to get it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Make an effort to talk to loved ones and find out what they think. Cosmic activity in your opposite signs of Aries means that if you are nice to people they will be nice to you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you focus on a problem to the exclusion of everything else you'll find the solution you need. The answers you require are in your mind already.

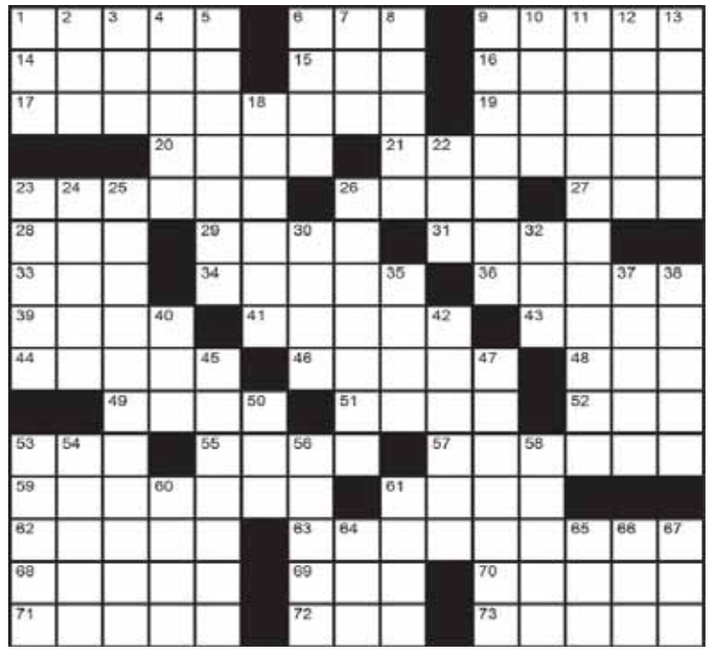
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Cosmic activity in your fellow Fire signs of Aries and Leo means everything comes easy to you at the moment. But that does not mean you no longer have to make an effort.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Follow your intuition over the next 24 hours, even if it leads you in a strange new direction. Just because a lot of people are moving down one path does not mean it is the right path.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Do something today that takes others by surprise. It should remind those you live, work and do business with that you shouldn't be taken for granted.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Do you have what it takes to succeed? Yes! You may be a Pisces, one of the nicest signs in the zodiac, but that doesn't mean you can't be ambitious!

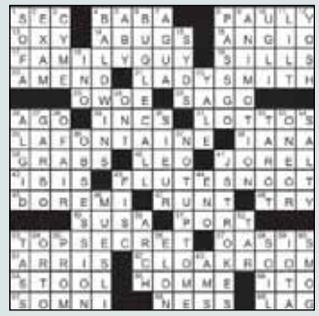
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Moon shape, e.g.
6. Since-ancient-times dog
9. Beeping communicator
14. Nouveau __ (New-wealth set)
15. Jackie O's hubby
16. Feminine inner self, in Jungian psychology
17. Canadian frozen yogurt chain founded in 1986: 2 wds.
19. Pancake-on-pancake-on...
20. Bail
21. Daytime movie
23. Backup the file again
26. 1991 Extreme hit: "__ Hearted"
27. Mr. Shackelford
28. Li'l elevation
29. American univ.
31. Spill the beans
33. 'Law' suffix
34. Commandment word
36. Followers
39. __ upswing: 2 wds.
41. Canadian mixed martial artist, __ 'The Spartan' Theodorou
43. Bargain
44. Ancient water nymph
46. 'A.' of President James A. Garfield
48. Dick Dyke link
49. Actor Will
51. Edmonton sch.: letter + wd. + letter
52. Time-saving abbr.
53. "Great catch!"
55. Borscht ingredient
57. Loved one
59. Activity signer-upper
61. Fan's favourite
62. Decorative edging in embroidery
63. Sandra L. __, Master of the Royal Canadian Mint
68. Piano exercise
69. Stop
70. __ Robina, Parenting Expert on "Cityline"
71. Earlies opposites, say
72. Place
73. Flower kind

Down
1. Discharge droplets
2. Brazilian city
3. Hosp. recording
4. Solomon to __ (W.B. Yeats poem)
5. Calgary-headquartered oil sands company
6. Go separate ways
7. Montevideo is its cap.
8. Gadget
9. Pinks and peaches and lilacs
10. Against
11. Ice Age rodent in North America: 2 wds.
12. Master of ceremonies
13. Made money, with In
18. Arrow: French
22. Greece neighbour [abbr.]
23. Silk-like fabric
24. Female werewolf on Space's "Bitten"
25. Like some McCain fries: 2 wds.
26. North Pacific flatfish
30. __ __ Land (Los Angeles, colloquially)
32. Knowing interjections
35. Tropical tuber
37. Make happy
38. Coinage in Coventry
40. Glaswegian's 'No'
42. Terell __, "Turn the Leaf" (Prod. Preme Diesel) recording artist from Vancouver
45. Weighs the pros and cons
47. "Vogue" songstress
50. Stimpy's co-star
53. Drive bugs away
54. The Body Shop founder Ms. Roddick
56. Singing: Ms. Merman
58. Gymnastics: Ms. Korbut's
60. Emulated an equestrian
61. '500' car race
64. "__ Maria in Novela Land" (2015)
65. Blaster!
66. Roman I's amount
67. Big Apple hockey team [acronym]

Yesterday's Crossword

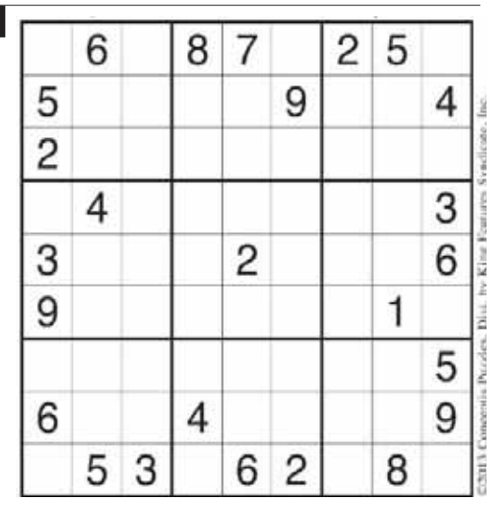


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

6	2	9	5	7	3	8	4	1
4	3	8	2	1	6	7	9	5
1	5	7	8	4	9	6	2	3
7	4	6	9	2	5	1	3	8
8	9	3	1	6	7	4	5	2
5	1	2	3	8	4	9	7	6
3	8	4	6	9	2	5	1	7
2	7	1	4	5	8	3	6	9
9	6	5	7	3	1	2	8	4

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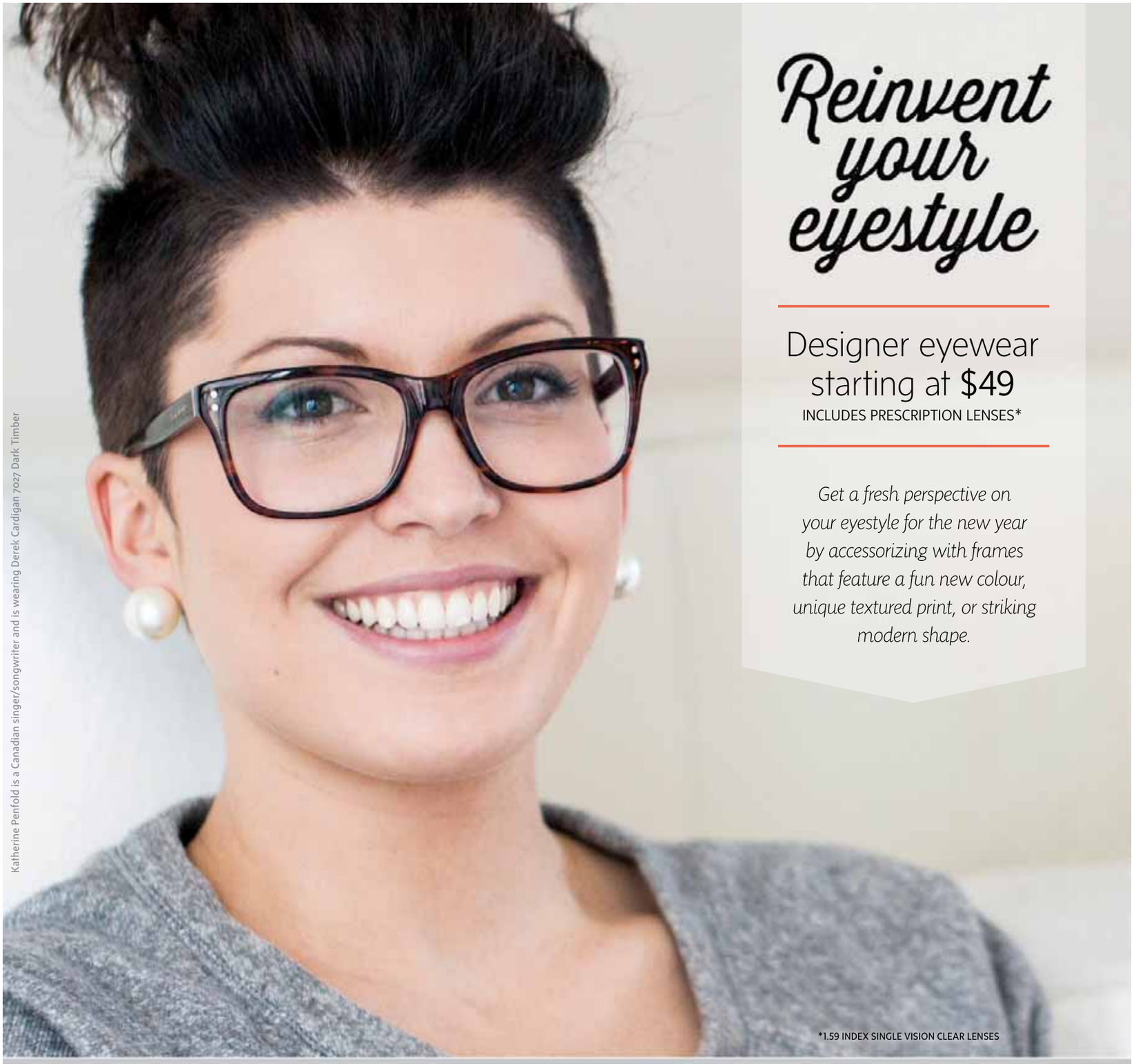

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